



CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

VOLUME 3: QUALITY MANAGEMENT	Effective Date: 05/2007
CHAPTER 7: PATIENT SAFETY	Revision Date: 08/2018
3.7.10 PATIENT SAFETY PROGRAM PROCEDURE: HEAT ALERT MEDICATIONS	Attachments: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

I. PROCEDURE OVERVIEW

California Correctional Health Care Services (CCHCS) and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) shall maintain a Heat Alert Medication List and take special precautions to prevent heat-related illness in patients prescribed medications that have the potential to impair thermoregulation. These precautions are documented in a CDCR Heat Plan enforced from May 1 through October 31 each year and whenever temperatures warrant. CCHCS patient care tools located on the Quality Management Portal – All Care Team Tools page are available to assist staff in identifying patients that are prescribed Heat Alert Medications.

II. DEFINITIONS

Heat Alert Medications: Medications that can pose a serious risk to a patient's health during times of extreme heat by impairing the body's ability to regulate temperature.

Heat Medications Registry (Clinical View): A type of Heat Medication Report intended for clinical staff only that provides clinical details and protected health information about all patients currently prescribed a Heat Alert Medication.

Heat Meds Custody Report: A type of Heat Medication Report intended for custody staff only that provides the Care Team, cell bed location, and facility location of all patients currently prescribed a Heat Alert Medication.

Heat Plan: A documented local operating procedure to prevent adverse drug reactions in patients prescribed medications that have the potential to impair thermoregulation. The Heat Plan is enforced from May 1 through October 31 each year and whenever temperatures warrant.

Protected Health Information: Information created or received by CCHCS that identifies or can be used to identify an individual as it relates to past, present, or future health conditions; health care services provided to the individual; or health care related payments. This applies to information that is transmitted or maintained in verbal, paper, or electronic form.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Heat Alert Medications List

1. Data shall be drawn from the electronic Health Care Incident Reporting System, current medication usage across the health care system, industry best practices, and relevant clinical information to inform the review of and updates to the Heat Alert Medication List. The Heat Alert Medication List shall be made available to staff via the CCHCS Lifeline Patient Safety Resources page.
2. Heat Alert Medications are identifiable in existing CCHCS patient care tools, which may include the Electronic Health Record System.
3. Decision support tools shall be revised or new tools developed to help health care and custody staff identify patients who may be at risk of heat related illness

CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

(e.g., Heat Meds Custody Report, Heat Medications Registry, Patient Summary, Patient Medication Profile or Patient Risk Profile).

4. Institution staff shall not alter the Heat Alert Medication List.
5. Any recommendation to add or remove a drug from the Heat Alert Medication List shall be submitted in writing to healthincidentreporting@cdcr.ca.gov with proper justification to the CCHCS Statewide Patient Safety Committee and Systemwide P&T Committee.

B. Heat Medication Reports

1. Designated health care and custody staff shall obtain a Heat Medication Report of all patients currently prescribed a Heat Alert Medication on a daily basis between May 1 and October 31 and whenever temperatures warrant.
 - a. The Heat Medication Report shall identify all patients on heat medications while their medication order is active and for a period of time after discontinuation.
 - b. The period of time that heat medication alerts continue after a medication has been discontinued shall be determined at the time of review of the Heat Alert Medication List. Any additions or deletions shall be made as appropriate based on available data including, but not limited to, clinical evidence and pharmaceutical parameters.
2. Care Teams and other appropriate health care staff shall monitor patients listed on the Heat Medications Registry to identify those who may require follow-up health care services or a change in drug therapy due to a heat alert. This registry is available on the Quality Management Portal – [All Care Team Tools page](#).
3. Custody staff shall identify and locate all patients who are on the Heat Meds Custody Report during Heat Plan activation. This report is available on the Quality Management Portal – [All Care Team Tools page](#).

IV. REFERENCES

- Code of Federal Regulations, Title 45, Subtitle A, Subchapter C, Part 160, Subpart A, Section 160.103, Definitions
- Code of Federal Regulations, Title 45, Subtitle A, Subchapter C, Part 164, Subpart E, Section 164.501, Definitions; Section 164.502, Uses and disclosures of protected health information: General rules; Section 164.506, Uses and disclosures to carry out treatment, payment, or health care operations
- California Correctional Health Care Services, Inmate Medical Services Policies and Procedures, Volume 3, Chapter 7.2, Health Care Incident Reporting Policy